

HOUSE BILL 289
By Newton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 26, relative to mandated coverage for diabetes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 26, is amended by adding the following language as a new section within that part:

Section 56-7-2605.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, any individual, franchise, blanket, or group health insurance policy, medical service plan, contract, hospital service corporation contract, hospital and medical service corporation contract, fraternal benefit society, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization or managed care organization which provides hospital, surgical, or medical expense insurance shall provide coverage for equipment, supplies, and outpatient self-management training and education, including medical nutrition therapy, which are necessary for the treatment of diabetes.

(b) The provisions of this section are applicable to all health benefit policies, programs, or contracts which are offered by commercial insurance companies, nonprofit insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, and managed care organizations, and which

24093271

24093271

001888

00188819

are entered into, delivered, issued for delivery, amended, or renewed after January 1, 1998.

(c) The following equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes must be included in the coverage provided pursuant to subsection (a), when prescribed by a physician for the care of an individual patient with diabetes:

(1) Blood glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind;

(2) Test strips for blood glucose monitors;

(3) Visual reading and urine test strips;

(4) Insulin;

(5) Injection aids;

(6) Syringes;

(7) Lancets;

(8) Insulin pumps and appurtenances thereto;

(9) Insulin infusion devices;

(10) Oral hypoglycemia agents; and

(11) Podiatric appliances for prevention of complications associated with diabetes.

(d) A health insurance carrier shall not reduce or eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this section.

(e) For purposes of this section, the term "patient with diabetes" shall include all persons with insulin-using diabetes, non-insulin-using diabetes, or gestational diabetes, and all persons with a medical condition which wholly or partially consists of elevated blood glucose levels.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.

